

wherein said aluminum silicate comprises at least one of kaolin, metakaolin, halloysite, dickite, nacrite, or a mixture thereof; and

wherein said introduction of said cement slurry is preceded by introduction of a spacer fluid into said wellbore which serves to displace and substantially remove any drilling mud present in said wellbore.

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39. The method of claim 38, wherein said aluminum silicate comprises metakaolin.

**B. Remarks**

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Suchfield for the courtesy of granting a phone interview with Applicants' representative William W. Enders on November 3, 1999, during which U.S. Patent No. 5,711,383 to Terry was discussed. Also discussed were the submittal of claim amendments to distinguish the method of original claim 33 from this reference, including those amendments to claim 33 submitted herewith. Support for the amendments and new claims may be found in the claims as originally filed and in the specification, for example, at page 27, lines 26-28.

With the amendments submitted herewith, the pending claims are claims 1-35 and 38-39. Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable. Reconsideration of the application and claims is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (512) 347-1611 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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